

**'Twas THE NIGHT BEFORE RECESS  
 OPENING STATEMENT OF REP. EDWARD J. MARKEY (D-MA)  
 SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND AIR QUALITY MARKUP OF H.R. 3406  
 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2001**

Twas the night before recess, and all through the House The Members of Commerce were starting to grouse. “

The electricity markup decreed by the Chair Was coming too soon making passage unfair.

The lobbyists were nestled all snug in each row, While visions of bonuses danced to and fro; The Chair with his gavel, convening by night, Had just settled down for a long winter's fight.

When outside our halls there arose such a clatter, We sprang from the dais to see what was the matter. Away to the TV we flew like a flash, To hear news reports on Enron's big crash.

Employees of Enron were all seeing red As visions of bankruptcy danced in their head; A probe of their problems had not yet begun Yet somehow 'twas thought that a bill must be done.

The price on the sales of their high-flying stock Had spent the last weeks crashing down like a rock. Where were the accountants when these frauds appeared? Asleep at the switch, now they've all disappeared

The pensions of workers had withered away We knew in a moment just where the blame Lay. More rapid than lightning his downfall it came, His books don't add up. Is it all just a game?

Now, SKILLING! now, FASTOW! Let's have some fun! On, JEDI! on RAPTOR! On L J M One! To the top of the market! To the top of Street Wall! Now cash away! Cash away! Cash away all!

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly, When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky, So up to the house-tops Enron's stock prices flew. But the bubble did burst! Its investors were Scrooged!

Now we'll speak many words, of our hopes and our fears, And when finished with statements; let's adjourn till next year. Don't markup this bill till we've looked at Enron, And discovered just where all the money has gone.

So, adjourn tonight's markup, and hold some more hearings, And next year we'll see if a final deal's nearing. But for now let's exclaim, as we put off this fight, "HAPPY CHRISTMAS to all, and to all a good night.